

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 231340Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3062

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: BRANDT ADDRESSES FAITHFUL IN STUTTGART

REF: STUTTGART AUGUST 9 MEMCON WITH BUNDESTAG DEPUTY CONRADI

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 21, SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT SPOKE TO THE PARTY FAITHFUL AT THREE CAPACITY AUDIENCES IN STUTTGART DISTRICTS, FOCUSING ON STRAUSS AND FAILING TO MENTION KOHL, OR SCHMIDT FOR THAT MATTER. HE CRITICIZED ORTHODOX COMMUNISM ON ANNIVERSARY OF PRAGUE, BUT DEFENDED DETENTE AND WARNED AGAINST VOTING-IN A CDU GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE ISOLATED AMONG SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 21, STUTTGART SPD SPONSORED THREE MEETINGS WITH SPD FEDERAL CHAIRMAN WILLY BRNDT TO TOUCH OFF LOCAL "HOT PHASE" OF BUNDESTAG ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AS BUNDESTAG DEPUTY CONRADI INDICATED AUGUST 9 (REF MEMCON), BRANDT MAINLY ADD-
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RESSED THE PARTY FAITHFUL, URGING THEM TO CONVINCE FAMILY

AND FRIENDS TO TURN OUT THE VOTE FOR THE SPD. THE GERMAN PEOPLE, HE SAID, WOULD BE BADLY ADVISED IF IT DID NOT REELECT "A SUCCESSFUL CHANCELLOR". (THIS INCIDENTALLY WAS ONLY INDIRECT REFERENCE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HEARD BY CONGEN OBSERVERS AT MEETINGS).

3. IN DEALING WITH THE POLITICAL OPPONENT, BRANDT DID NOT MENTION KOHL EITHER. HE DIRECTED ALL HIS ATTACKS AGAINST FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, ADVISING HIS FRIENDS TO USE THAT NAME WHEN DESCRIBING THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE SPD. HE REFERRED TO STRAUSS AS "A TALENTED MAN WHO IS A MASTER OF ALMOST EVERYTHING EXCEPT HIMSELF."

4. IN ONE OF HIS TALKS, BRANDT ATTACKED "ORTHODOX COMMUNISM" IN AN OBLIQUE DEFENSE OF THE SPD AGAINST CDU SLOGAN "DEMOCRACY RATHER THAN SOCIALISM". HE SAID THAT SOCIALISM AS VIEWED BY THE CONTROLLING FORCES OF ORTHODOX COMMUNISM WILL NOT BE SPARED THE TEST OF FREEDOM. ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF PRAGUE EVENTS, BRANDT CLAIMED THAT "IT IS DISHONORABLE AND CONTRARY TO THE TRADITIONS OF THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT THAT SUCH MEN AS CSR REFORM POLITICIAN DUBCEK ARE STILL TREATED AS PARIAHS."

5. HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN POLICY GENERALLY, BRANDT REMAINED TRUE TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE WHICH, HE CLAIMED, NEEDED REEMPHASIZING. TO MAKE HIS POINT, HE NOTED THAT THE US HAD ENOUGH NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO DESTROY THE SOVIET UNION 44 TIMES, AND THE LATTER HAD ENOUGH TO BLOW UP THE UNITED STATES 22 TIMES. (THIS RECALLS DE GAULLE'S REPORTED RESPONSE TO KHRUSHCHEV'S BOAST THAT USSR HAD ENOUGH ATOMIC BOMBS TO DESTROY PARIS 100 TIMES: "YES, AND I CAN WIPE MOSCOW OFF THE MAP ONCE.")

6. THE SPD CHAIRMAN WARNED HIS AUDIENCE AGAINST A CDU VICTORY, WHICH WOULD LEAVE FRG "ISOLATED AMONG THE MANY SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE." HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE JUXTAPOSED TO THIS LINE OF "SOCIALIST THOUGHT" A STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN REPORT OF AUGUST 23 FROM STOCKHOLM THAT LATEST POLLS DO NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PALME IN SEPTEMBER SWEDISH ELECTION. ACCORDING TO CONRADI (AUGUST 9 MEMCON), IT

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IS THIS ELECTION THAT SPD IS WATCHING AS AN INDICATOR OF TRENDS; A LOSS THERE HAVING A PROBABLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON SPD FORTUNES IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. JENKINS

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